

**FORM B - BUILDING**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 100 BOYLSTON STREET  
 BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

B

102



Location ACTON

Address 460 Main Street

Historic Name John White House

Use: Present residential / commercial

Original single family residential

DESCRIPTION

Age ca. 1806

Source Fletcher / NR Nomination

Style Greek Revival/Italianate / altered

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric synthetic siding

Outbuildings small shed at rear, west side

Major Alterations (with dates) siding,  
clip-on mullions (1980s), center porch-20th c

Condition fair

Moved maybe Date ?1806?

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Northwest corner of Main and New-  
towne Rd. at Village Center, opposite

Common, among 19th c. residential, and  
institutional buildings.

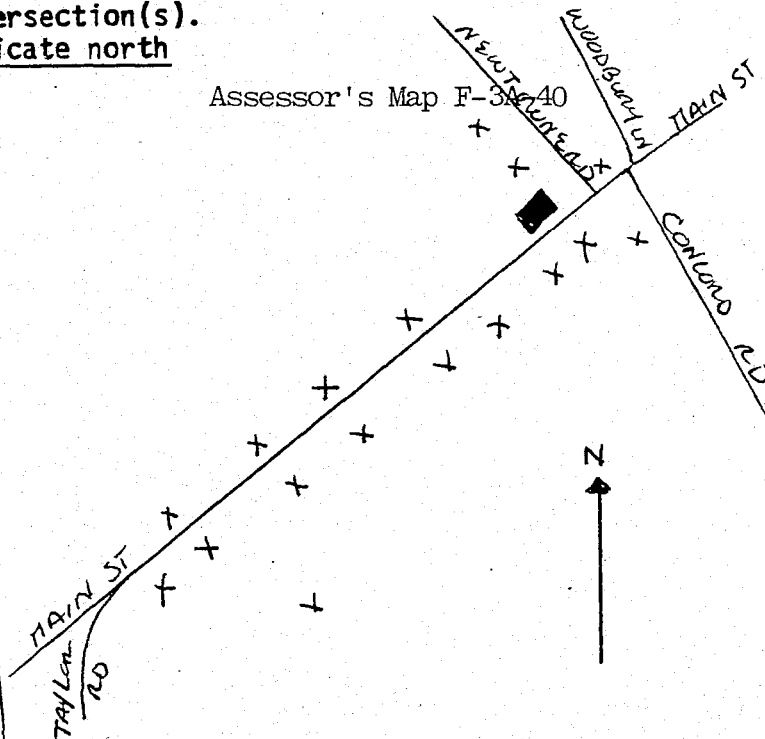
Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Acton Historical Commission

Date March 1990

**Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north**

Assessor's Map F-3840



REFERENCE

QUADRANGLE

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER IN 1983  
ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Acton Centre, once known as Acton Village, developed as the civic and institutional center of the large sprawling town which has several 19th century village centers. Acton Centre took on its suburban institutional form around an elongated Common from 1806 when the Second Meeting House was built and several local citizens bought surrounding farms and laid out house lots and built an hotel and some commercial buildings around the Common. The only industrial site was a shoe factory (no longer extant) opposite the Common. Most Acton industrial properties were located in South and West Acton due to the water power and location of the railroad in 1844 both of which bypassed Acton Centre. Subsequent development included the Evangelical Church, the Town Hall replacing the Second Meeting House, and finally the Library as well as many mid-19th century Greek Revival houses for artisans and professionals. Acton Centre is the approximate geographic center of Acton and appropriately remains the civic center.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas / Birdseye / Maps: 1851, 1856, 1871, 1875, 1889, 1892.  
Fletcher, Acton In History, 1890.  
Phalen, History of the Town of Acton, 1954.  
National Register Nomination, MHC, 1983.  
Vital Records for Acton.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

ACTON

Form No:

B-102

Property Name:

460 Main St.

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 460 MAIN STREET

Built on a granite foundation the 5-bay, 2 1/2 story, dwelling has been covered with synthetic siding. Flanking the center entrance are 1-story projecting bays. There is a 1 1/2 story side ell with an attached gable front barn. Once a twin chimney dwelling there is one remaining chimney located behind the ridge. There is also one chimney behind the ridge on the side ell.

The main facade has a center entrance with an early 20th century door with large glass panel. The projecting pedimented open porch at the center entrance is supported by square columns. Windows have 6/6 sash, no exposed frames, and synthetic shutters. The hipped roof projecting bays have 12/12 flanked by 4/4 and shutters also. The 1 1/2 story side ell has 2 entrance doors both with early 20th century glass and wood panels and one 2/2 sashed window. A long porch extends from the side ell and is supported by turned posts with open scroll brackets and a turned spindle frieze. Above the roof there are two full pediment dormers with 2/2 sash in one and 1/1 in the other. The attached barn has a well detailed vertical board sliding door with multi-light transom and 6/6 sash in the gable peak, both with molded lintels. The rest of the barn walls have synthetic siding.

On the west side, the gable end of the main house displays paired 6/6 first story sash, one 6/6 second story and two attic windows all with shutters. The east side has 3 first story, 3 second story, and 2 attic level windows, all with 6/6 sash with the exception of the end bay on the first and second story which have 2/2 sash.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT - 460 MAIN STREET

Main Street has always been a main route through Acton serving as an early native trail and later a carriage route. From the early 1800s when Acton Centre developed into the civic center the section of Main Street from west of Concord Road to Nagog Hill Road was two carriage lanes separated by a long narrow greensward strip that was part of the Common. In the late 1800s Main Street was known as Elm Street for the rows of elms and other trees planted by the Committee established to beautify the Town Common. The 20th century highway improvement of Route 27 resulted in the shift of Main Street to a two lane road north of the Common.

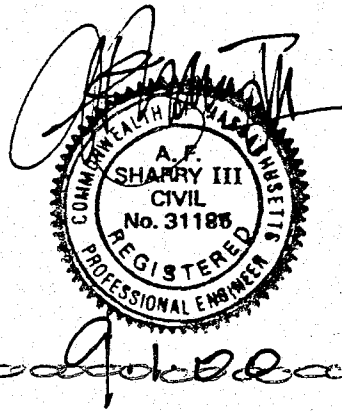
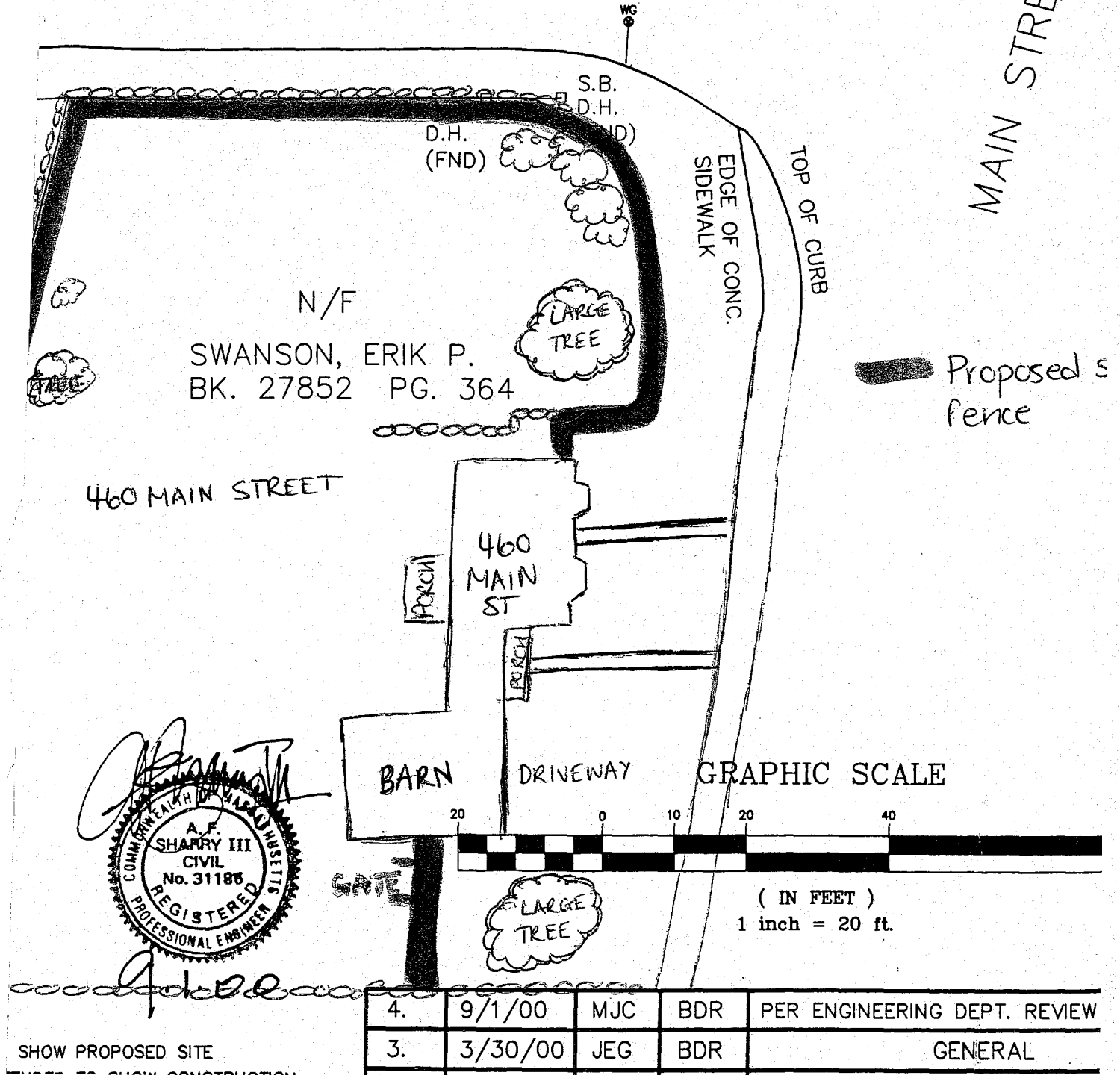
Known as the John White House for its first owner who was the local blacksmith and Deacon of the Congregational Church, the house gained its present form in ca. 1860. Prior to that it was a small 1-room deep house with a rear lean-to. The date of construction is ca. 1803 or ca. 1806 at the time of the Second Meeting House construction. From 1839 to 1861 this was the home of Silas Jones (1787-1861), who had fought in the War of 1812 as a Davis Blues Captain, and town wide had served as a selectman, the town clerk. By 1875 the John White House had passed to the Conants. Edward Conant lived here in 1880 and by 1889 his heirs owned the property.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# LAYOUT) ROAD

EXISTING  
HANDICAPPED  
RAMP  
(TO REMAIN)

MAIN STREET



SHOW PROPOSED SITE

|    |         |     |     |                              |
|----|---------|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| 4. | 9/1/00  | MJC | BDR | PER ENGINEERING DEPT. REVIEW |
| 3. | 3/30/00 | JEG | BDR | GENERAL                      |